



City of Gaithersburg Press Release

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For Immediate Release

Olney Art Association Juried Exhibition Returns to Kentlands Mansion

Gaithersburg, MD (October 24, 2018) Gaithersburg's *Arts on the Green* presents a collection of works by members of the Olney Art Association in a juried exhibition hosted for the second year at Kentlands Mansion. The exhibit is on display November 9, 2018 through January 6, 2019. The public is invited to meet the artists and juror Deborah Makiowski at a free Artists Reception on Thursday, November 15 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Makiowski will officiate an Awards Ceremony starting at 7:30 p.m.

Now in its 44th year, the Olney Art Association (OAA) was founded by five artists in the Olney area to support each other and find ways to exhibit their works. The first exhibit was a solo show of 30 paintings by Ed Longely held at Brooke Manor Country Club, which was operated by his good friend, Brooke Johns. After viewing the exhibit, Regina Syrjala and Brooke's daughter, Martha Johns, originated the idea of an Olney artists' association, first known as Artists of Greater Olney. Regina was selected as the first president and many of the meetings were held at her house, now known as Woodlawn Manor. The group of five met monthly to critique each other's work, discuss art-related topics and socialize in an informal atmosphere. The principal event each year was an annual show held at Brooke Manor Country Club. Members were charged a modest entry fee and entries were chosen by the members themselves.

In 1976, a constitution was developed and the organization became known officially as the OAA. By 1978, membership had grown to 25. Today the organization includes more than 90 artists working in many mediums. In 1983, OAA members met in the Olney library and began to exhibit their artwork on its walls. After the library was renovated, wall space was reserved for the OAA members to once again exhibit their original artwork, offering pieces for sale. Besides the library, OAA hosts three exhibits each year at Ranazul restaurant in Maple Lawn, Sandy Spring Museum, and the annual juried show at Kentlands Mansion.

Meetings are held bi-monthly in the Community Room of the Buffington Building in Olney. Each meeting has a guest speaker on an art-related topic. The meeting in July is reserved for the annual critique. Most members are from Montgomery and Howard Counties, but members are accepted regardless of their residency.

Located at 320 Kent Square Road, the Mansion Gallery offers the opportunity to view art in the beautiful, timeless setting of this historic estate. Due to frequent rentals for private events, viewing hours are Monday through Friday by appointment only. Please call the Mansion at 301-258-6425 prior to your visit.

Please note that most of the artwork is for sale and all images are copyrighted by the artists. For more information, please contact Shellie Williams at 301-258-6394, e-mail shellie.williams@gaitthersburgmd.gov, or visit Kentlands Mansion at gaitthersburgmd.gov.

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About *Arts on the Green*

Arts on the Green is the City of Gaithersburg's home for the performing and visual arts. Enjoy exhibits, concerts and theater performances at the Arts Barn and Kentlands Mansion and outdoor events and festivals on the park-like Green. Or join us for educational opportunities in one of our teaching studios, resident artist studios or theatre. Our historic buildings recall the charm of a bygone era, but our activities are anything but old fashioned.

For more information, call 301-258-6394, find us at gaitthersburgmd.gov or follows us on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram at [ArtsOnTheGreen](https://www.facebook.com/ArtsOnTheGreen).